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REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
DANTA STATE
FOR THE YEARS
1943-44 & 1944-45.





THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
DANTA STATE
FOR THE
Two Years ending 31st October 1945.

CHAPTER I.
General and Political.

(i) Physical Aspects.

The Danta State is situated on the north frontier of Gujarat and on the Southern line of Rajputana, in a local division called "Nahni-Marwar". It lies between $24^{\circ}. 0'$ and $34^{\circ}. 23'$ North Latitude and between $72^{\circ}. 40'$ and $73^{\circ}. 5'$ East Longitude. Its extreme length from north to south is 22 miles and the extreme breadth from east to west is 20 miles.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

The State is bounded on the north by Sirohi State, on the
 South by Sudasna Taluka and Gadhwada Thana,
 BOUNDARY areas attached to Baroda State, on the east
 by Idar State and on the West by Palanpur State.

The country is picturesque being almost entirely hilly with
 thick forest save for the southern and western
 TOPOGRAPHY. portions which are somewhat plain and open.
 The Aravalli Ranges throw their out-lying arms forming numerous
 hills and valleys, the highest peak of which (Ghodi) rises 2,817
 feet above the sea level. The hills are covered over with considerable
 forest growth and owing to the abundance of water, form natural
 habitat for wild animals viz, tiger, panther, hyena, bear, pig, etc
 The country is well drained by numerous small streams which
 flow throughout the rainy season and empty their contents into
 either of the two important rivers, Sabarmati and Saraswati.
 The former is the bigger of the two and for a considerable
 length of its course forms the dividing boundary between the
 Idar and Danta States. The latter river, though smaller, is held
 in much veneration by the Hindus all over India. It rises from
 the Menagar Hill in the extreme north of the State, flows past
 the famous temple of Shri Koteswar, then runs right through
 the very heart of the State before entering the territories of
 Palanpur and Baroda States at a village called Mokheshwar.
 It is also known as Kumarika or the Virgin River for the fact
 that like other rivers it does not join either the sea or another
 big river but disappears in the Runn or desert of Cutch.

(ii) General Information.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL. The climate is dry and temperate all throughout the year, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded being 109° F & 51° F, in 1943-44 and 106° F. and 42° F. in 1944-45 respectively. The hot weather in summer is considerably relieved by the cool breezes in the evening and early morning. The rains break out generally at the fag end of June and continue well through July, August and September. The monsoon is at its best in August. The normal annual rain-fall is about 40 inches.

AREA, DIVISIONS, POPULATION AND LANGUAGE. The approximate area of the State is 347 square miles, which for administrative purposes is divided into 5 divisions, called Mahals, viz: Danta, Mataji, Hadad, Tarsang and Joita. The population according to the census of 1941 A. D. is 31, 110 souls consisting of 16,218 males and 14,892 females, of whom 27,810 are Hindus, 2,968 Mohammedans, 326 Jains, 3 Parsees, 2 Sikhs and 1 Christian. This population is distributed over 2 townships and 178 villages. The townships are Danta Bhavangadh and Shri Ambaji, and their populations are 2,312 and 767 respectively. The proportion of population to area is 89 souls to a square mile which is low, indeed, but is mainly due to the fact of far the larger portion of the State being hilly and covered with jungle. The population has increased by 19 percent during the last decade and by 45 percent during the last half century which is an index of the prosperity, happiness and contentment of the

people in the State in general under the present regime. The prevailing languages are Gujarati and Marwari, while the Bhills and Garassias speak a dialect of their own, called Bhillati, which is a mixture of corrupt Gujarati and Marwari. The Court language, however, is Gujarati

No railway lines either pass through the State or anywhere touch its territory. The chief
MEANS OF ACCESS. means of access to the State is Via

Abu Road, a town of Sirohi State on the main line of the B. B. & C. I. Railway's metre gauge system. The capital town of Danta Bhavangadh is 28 miles from the railway station, and a regular motor service runs between these two places touching on its way Shri Ambaji, another important town and centre of Pilgrimage within the State.

The State is served by the Indian posts and Telegraphs
POSTS & TELEGRAPHS. Department. There is a combined post and telegraph office at Danta Bhavangadh and a branch post office at Shri Ambaji.

The State maintains an internal telephone system of
TELEPHONES. its own, connecting important Thanas and villages of the State with the Capital. It has been instrumental in affording numerous advantages to the public and great facilities to the administration especially in speedily detecting and checking crimes and ensuring enforcement of law and order.

There are Dak Bungalows at Shri Ambaji, Danta Bhavangadh, Motasada, Vijlasan, Mankdi and Hadad.

REST HOUSES.

The principal places of historical and antiquarian interest in the State are Shri Ambaji, Danta Bhavangadh, Kumbharia and the ruined site of Tarsangma, the old capital of the State.

PLACES OF ANTIQUARIAN INTEREST.

The principal centres of pilgrimage for Hindus from all over India and especially for those from Gujarat, Kathiawar and Rajputana are Shri Ambaji, Gabbar Hill, Koteswar, Valmik Ashram and Mokheshwar while those for Jains are the exquisitely carved temples at Kumbharia.

PLACES OF PILGRIMAGE.

Shri Ambaji, Danta Bhavangadh, Navowas, Mankdi and Hadad are the Chief centres of trade in the State. Although far away from railway stations they play an important part in the local and internal trade.

CENTRES OF TRADE

(iii) Historical Sketch.

The Rulers of Danta enjoy per-eminence of being the head of Parmar clan of Rajputs of Agnivansh as they are descended in direct line from Emperor Vikramaditya, the epoch making monarch of the ancient history of India. The Parmars, who have nearly always remained in or near the country of Malwa

LINEAGE.

round Ujjain, are said to have, at one time, held the whole or at least the major portion of Rajputana which gave rise to a popular saying. “पृथ्वी परमारों तणी”, meaning thereby that the earth belonged to the Parmars. Raja Dharni Varah, one of the descendents of Vikram, who ruled over Rajputana, divided his kingdom amongst his nine brothers, keeping only the province of Sind for himself. This division even to this day, referred to in Rajputana as “नवकोटी मारवाड”.

The descendants of Dharni Varah ruled Sind in peace for more than three centuries until the persistent and pressing invasions of the Mohammedans on that province forced them to retire elsewhere. Raja Shri Jusrajji, the then ruler of Sind, came to Mount Arasur (Shri Ambaji) conquered the surrounding country and laid the foundation of the present State of Danta in 1068 A. D.

The successors of Raja Shri Jusrajji considerably extended and consolidated their domain, so much so that at one time the State included all portions of Santpur and Rohira Tehsils of Sirohi, a tract in Mewar as far as the present cantonment of Kotra, a portion of Idar upto Khedbrahma, eastern portion of Palanpur, Kheralu Mahal of Baroda, the whole Gadhwa Thana and Sudasna. Of these the Jagir of Sudasna was given in 1682 A. D. by Maharana Shri Gaj Singhji to his younger brother Juswant-Singhji for maintenance, while the Gadhwa Thana villages were given in jagir to various Gadhia Koli Chiefs at varying

periods for their services to the State. The Kheralu Mahal,, now included in Baroda State, was mortgaged to the -Subah of Gujarat ^{by} Maharana Jethmulji in 1650 A. D. for financing military operations against Rao Jugannath of Idar which resulted in the latter's expulsion from Idar to Polo (now vijaynagar) The long potracted wars between the Raos of Idar and the Rulers of Danta, during the 16th and 17th centuries, brought much ruination to Danta State and resulted in the dismemberment of some of its out lying districts.

During the time of Emperor Akbar, one of his Sons,
Prince Salim, quarellled with him and

TITLE OF MAHARANA.

fled from Delhi. He tried to seek

shelter in various States of Rajputana, but for fear of incurring the wrath of the Emperor, none dared to shelter him. At last the Prince sought refuge with Rana Askuranji of Danta (then known as Tarsanghma) who, true to his family tradition of " शरणागत साधार ", found inscribed on the State Crest and Coat of Arms, readily gave him shelter, as befitting a true Kshatriya. Some few years thereafter the Prince went to Kathiawar, but was seized by Rao Bharmulji of Cutch, and handed over to the Emperor. The Emperor gave the district of Morvi to Rao Bharmulji for this service. However, when the Emperor and his son had been reconciled and the former had been made acquainted with the gallant conduct of Rana Askuranji of Danta towards his son, the Emperor was so highly pleased with it that as a mark of appreciation and recognition he, soon

after, sent a Dress of Honour and conferred the title of "MAHARANA" on Rana Shri Askuranji and Prince Salim sent to him a jewelled signet ring.

The State came into political relations with the British Power in 1812 A. D., which persist to the present day.

CONTACT WITH BRITISH POWER.

The Ruling Houses collatorily connected with Danta are those of Tehri Gadhwal, Narsinghgarh, Rajgarh, Sant, Muli etc, while the house of Sudasna, as stated above, is its offshoot. The Ruling House of Danta is matrimonially connected with the Rulling Houses of Udaipur (Mewar), Banswara, Dungarpur, Jodhpur, Idar, Jaisalmer, Sirohi and Dhrangadhra.

RULING FAMILIES RELATED

(iv) The Ruller's Family.

The present Ruler of Danta, Maharana Shri Sir Bhawani Singhji Bahadur, K. C. S. I., was born on Bhadrpad Shukla 8, Vikram Samwat 1956 corresponding to the 13th September 1899 A. D. He was educated at the Mayo College, Ajmer, and was for a number of years, associated with the administration of the State before he ascended the Gadi on the 10th March 1926. He was created K. C. S. I., by His Majesty the King Emperor on the 2nd January 1939. The Ruler is a member of the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) in his own right.

THE PRESENT RULER.

The Ruler is entitled to a permanent dynastic salute of nine guns. The accession to the Gadi

STATE POWERS.

is governed by the rule of primogeniture. The State enjoys independent sovereign powers, with full civil and criminal jurisdiction and authority to make its own laws.

During the years under report, the Darbar visited the following places outside the State:-

RULER'S MOVEMENTS.

Ajmer, Dungarpur, Bikaner and Abu. Besides, he off and on carried out tours through all the Mahals of the State.

The Ruler's first marriage took place with the sister of Maharaj Shri Bijai Singhji of Raoti (Jodhpur); and his second with the sister of H. H. the Raja Sahib Bahadur of Sohawal, a State under Bundelkhund Agency, Central India. Both the Maharaniji Sahibans died in 1923, the latter leaving behind her one Maharaj-kumari Sahiba. She was married to Raja Shri Ram Singhji Sahib, B. A., a premier Shekhawati noble of Jaipur State, but died after a short illness at Danta Bhavangadh, on the 19th August 1944.

PARTICULARS OF THE RULER'S FAMILY.

The present Maharaniji Shri Champawatji Sahiban is a sister of Thakur Nahar Singhji Sahib of Auwa, a premier noble of Marwar State. By her the Maharaniji Sahib Bahadur has had four Maharaj Kumar Sahibs and six Maharaj-Kumari Sahibans. Out of them one Maharaj-Kumar Sahib died in early

childhood. Below are given the names and birth dates of the surviving Maharaj Kumar Sahibs:-

1. Maharaj Kumar Shri Prithiviraj Singhji Sahib
Bahadur, the Heir-Apparent. 22nd July 1928.
2. Maharaj Kumar Shri Madhusudan Singhji Sahib.
30th May 1933.
3. Maharaj Kumar Shri Raghuveer Singhji Sahib.
4th December 1934.

Among other members of the Ruling Family are the following:-

1. Maharaj Shri Laxman Singhji Sahib, aged 20 years, the nephew of the Ruler;
2. Maharaj Shri Dalpat Singhji Sahib, the uncle of the Ruler, who died at the age of 63, on the 24th July 1944,
3. Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji Sahib, aged 40 years, the cousin of the Ruler; and
4. Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji Sahib, aged 38 years, another cousin of the Ruler.

Maharaj Shri Laxman Singhji Sahib is at present undergoing administrative training in the State. Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji Sahib and Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji Sahib who have had their training at the Mayo College, Ajmer, are

for a number of years past associated with the administration of the State as Dewan and Revenue Commissioner respectively.

The three Maharaj Kumar Sahibs, who were so far being educated at home under the guidance of well qualified and experienced tutors, have from June 1945, been admitted into the Saint Mary's High School, Mount Abu, in order to afford them wider scope and opportunities of healthy competition and association with others of their age and class

EDUCATION OF THE MAHARAJ
KUMARS,

(v) Political.

The State is in direct political relations with the Crown Representative through the Hon'ble the Resident for Rajputana and for that matter remained attached to the Western Rajputana States Agency. For the greater part of the period under review the Political officer in charge of the Western Rajputana States Agency was Lt. Col. G. B. Williams, C. I. E., M. C., who took over the charge of the Political Agent on the 14th December 1943 and continued as such throughout the period under report.

POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH
THE PARAMOUNT POWER.

The Political relations with the Paramount Power continued to be most cordial as ever.

Relations with the neighbouring States of Sirohi, Palanpur, Baroda and Idar also remained cordial as in the preceding years.

RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURING
STATE.

(vi) Administration:

The Darbar is the source of all authority and power in the State. The administration of the
ADMINISTRATION. of the State is carried on under the

personal guidance and direction of the Ruler with the assistance of the Dewan. The authority and powers of the heads of departments are well defined and each within his own sphere is independent of the other. In important matters, however, the Darbar is always accessible for advice and guidance and the success and efficiency, so far attained in the administration, are mainly due to the Darbar's easy accessibility and conscientious application to the affairs of the State.

(vii) Improvements and Progress.

Several new enactments on the lines of those in force
NEW ENACTMENTS. in British India, have been promulgated and introduced in the State, during the period under report, in the interest of better and more efficient production, distribution, conservation and control of essential utility and needs of the people and prevention of hoarding and profiteering.

For making food stuffs and other essential necessities of life easily available to the public at reasonable rates, a Control of
PROCUREMENT AND CONTROL OF COMMODITIES. Commodities Department is organized and maintained and every effort is being exerted to save the public from being charged

exorbitantly and to prevent hoarding and profiteering. The Department further undertakes to make arrangements for securing supplies of commodities in which the State may be deficient, from Provinces and States which have surplus stocks of them through the utilization of the good offices of the Political and Civil Supplies Departments of the Government of India. Fortunately the State experienced no difficulty in respect of wheat, bajra, maize, coarse millets, gram, ghee, vegetable oils etc., as it could meet its demands from its own productions. The State, however, was deficient in respect of rice, mung arhar, sugar, gur, etc., These commodities were obtained from the Punjab, United Provinces, etc., in the manner stated above and their equitable distribution was effected through the Department.

To restrict the profits of the dealers in all goods, a

HOARDING AND PROFITEERING
PREVENTION ORDINANCE. Hoarding and profiteering Prevention Ordinance was promulgated. Under it the maximum prices of several specified articles were fixed from time to time, while in respect of unspecified articles of which maximum prices were not specified or could not be fixed it was provided that no dealer or producer shall sell them or offer them for sale or otherwise dispose of them for consideration which, whether it is conclusively in money or otherwise, exceeds the landed cost (in case of an imported article) or cost of production (in case of an article produced in India) by 25 percent.

In furtherance of the programme to construct a network of motorable roads in the State and to improve the already existing one, the work of consolidating the road between Shri Ambaji and Danta Bhavangadh, by construction of culverts and low bridges over nullahs and streams, was vigorously pursued and pushed on. Major portion of the work has been completed during the years under report, with the exception of a low bridge over Unkachali stream in the vicinity of the capital, which had to be left over for the succeeding year. This done, it will have the effect of opening up the road for motor traffic all throughout the year irrespective of the seasons.

IMPROVEMENT OF MEANS
OF COMMUNICATION.

As a work of public utility it will be hailed as a boon by all classes, the cultivator, the carter, the motorist, the trader, and the travelling public, to whom it will not only assure ease and comfort of travel but will further open up marketing facilities to the people in the interior by bringing the towns of Danta Bhavangadh and Shri Ambaji and the railway station of Abu Road within easy reach and quick accessibility all the year round. Another advantage it is calculated to bring is the possibility of the carriage of postal mails by motor buses on this road resulting in the speeding up of them to and from the State. The matter is being closely pursued with the postal Authorities concerned with hopeful and satisfactory result.

In the interest of improvement and development of agriculture, the Solsanda Irrigation Tank project, taken in hand in

DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION.

the preceeding years, was pursued further and completed before the rainy season of 1944. It is an old tank whose catchment and capacity had been impaired due to silting and breaches in the bund. The catchment inlets were, therefore, cleared, silt removed from the bed, breaches to the bund repaired and the whole course of the bund was stone pitched and consolidated. The heavy rainfall of 1943-44 helped to fill the tank to its full capacity and made it possible to let out water for irrigation of crops. So far about 150 bighas of land has been brought under irrigation which until the improvement to the tank was growing only dry or kharif crops.

Efforts are being made for erection and installation of a Power House at Danta Bhavangadh for electrification of the capital town as a Post War Reconstruction measure. The necessary power generating plant has been purchased during the years under report, however, its installation has to be deferred till such time as the supply of diesel oil for its working is assured and necessary wiring material is available.

A new Ayurvedic Dispensary was started at the capital with effect from 1st June 1944, with a view to utilizing numerous indigenous herbs and drugs readily available in the forests of the State, in the treatment of various diseases and ailments of the people. The medicines and drugs are locally prepared by a staff specially engaged for the purpose

PROPOSAL FOR ELECTRIFICATION
OF DANTA BHAVANGADH TOWN.

STARTING OF A NEW AYURVEDIC
DISPENSARY AT DANTA
BHAVANGADH.

and distributed to the public free of all cost or charge. This institution is over and above the Allopathic Hospital and Dispensary run and maintained by the State. The head of the Ayurvedic Dispensary is a qualified and experienced Vaidya.

As an incentive to stimulate interest for education amongst the Rajputs of the State, a modest beginning was made in June 1945, by starting a Hostel for Rajput boys whose parents or guardians could not afford to give the amenities of education to their wards. The institution has been started, in the first instance, by admitting 5 poor Rajput boys from the villages of the State. They are housed, fed, clothed and educated entirely at State cost & expense. At present the Hostel is housed in a hired building and as the strength grows it is proposed to build a suitable building for it.

In the interest of preservation and improvement of the health of school children, and annual medical examination of school children in Danta Bhavangadh, and Shri Ambaji, by medical officers concerned, has been newly arranged. The same benefit will be extended to the schools in other villages in the near future.

(viii) Visits of Distinguished Guests.

During the years under report, the following distinguished guests visited the State:-

1. His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur of Jodhpur
2. His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur of Idar.
3. His Highness Raja Shahib Bahadur of Sohawal, C. I.
4. The Heir-Apparent of Idar.
5. The Hon'ble Lt-Col. Sir G. V. B. Gillan, K. C. I. E., Resident for Rajputana.
6. Lady Gillan.
7. Lt-Col. G. B. Williams, C. I. E. M.C, Political Agent, Western Rajputana States Agency.
8. Major L. W. Wooldridge, Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident for Rajputana.
9. H. A. Carless, I. P., M. A., LL. B., Police Advisor to the Hon'ble the Resident for Rajputana.

(ix) Notable Events.

The auspicious occasions of His Majesty the King

HIS MAJESTY THE KING EMPEROR'S
BIRTHDAYS. Emperor's birthdays were observed on the 8th June 1944 and 14th June 1945.

As usual they were observed as public holidays and prayers for long and happy life of His Majesty, were offered, however, owing to the War no Royal Salute was fired

The Maharanaaji Shri Sahib Bahadur's 46th and 47th

THE RULER'S BIRTHDAYS. birthdays were observed on the 29th August 1944 and 15th September 1945

respectively. The days were observed as public holidays, prayers for the Darbar's long and happy life were offered and alms, food and clothing to the poor and sweets to the School Children were distributed. Neither guns were fired nor Durbar was held owing to the exigencies of War.

The Heir-Apparent's 17th and 18th Birthdays were observed on the 26th July 1944 and 14 August 1945. As usual the days were observed as public holidays, prayers for his long and happy life were offered, the poor fed and sweets distributed in schools. Programmes of competitive games and sports were held and prizes given away to the winning competitors and students successful at the preceeding year's annual examinations.

In deference to the pious wishes of His Majesty the king Emperor, 5th anniversary of the outbreak of the War was observed on the 4th September 1944. All communities offered special prayers in their respective places of worship for speedy triumph and victory of Great Britain and the United Nations.

Again, 17th September 1944 was celebrated as "Battle of Britain " Day. Special mass prayers and religious services were held in places of worship, -thanking God for the favours He has been pleased to grant in His Mercy on Great Britain in the great mission she stands for.

A wave of great delight passed over the subjects of
the State at the arrival of the news
of the defeat and capitulation of

VICTORY IN EUROPE.

Germany and the cessation of hostilities in Europe. To celebrate the event in manner befitting the occasion the schools, courts and offices in the State were ordered to be closed for three days on the 8th, 9th and 10th of May 1945. A Royal Salute of 101 guns heralded the Victory in Europe and there was much feasting and gala making everywhere. Again 14th May 1945 was declared to be observed as a Thanks-giving Service day. On that day flags were hoisted on public buildings, alms, food and clothing to the poor and needy and sweets to the children in schools were distributed. Thanks-giving Services were held in places of worship, several temples were illuminated at night and the Victory Banquet was held at night at the Palace.

Surge after surge of joy and delight rocked the people
of the State as the tidings bearing
the news of the defeat and capitulation

VICTORY OVER JAPAN.

of Japan were pouring in. The people heaved a heavy sigh of relief at the prospect of the happy and victorious conclusion of the War and the removal of the danger and menace to India. All schools, courts and offices were closed on the 16th, 17th and 19th August 1945 and there was complete cessation of all work. A Royal Salute of 101 guns was fired to herald the advent of peace and prosperity after the victory over Japan.

and the happy conclusion of the War. The enthusiasm of the people was spontaneous and there was much merry-making everywhere. The 19th August was set apart as Thanks-Giving Service Day. On that day flags were hoisted on public buildings, alms, food and clothing to the poor and needy and sweets to school children were distributed, Thanks-Giving Services were held in temples and mosques, requiem services were held in honour of those who laid and sacrificed their lives on the battle-fields in the service of their God, Crown and Country. The Palace, temples and streets were illuminated at night and the programme ended with the Victory Banquet held at the Palace.

(x) Other Events

The State was plunged into grief at the demise of
MAHARAJ SHRI DALPAT SINGHJI Maharaj Shri Dalpat Singhji Sahib,
SAHIB'S DEMISE. the uncle of the Darbar, at the age of 63, on 24th July 1944. All Offices, courts and schools were closed for three days as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

News about the sad demise on the 28th July 1944 of
H. H. BANSWARA'S DEMISE. His Highness Rai Rayan Maharawalji Shri Sir Prithi Singhji Sahib Bahadur. K. C. I. E., of Banswara plunged the State into mourning. In view of the close relationship existing between the two States, all offices, courts and schools were closed for three days in honour of the memory of the deceased.

The State was again plunged into deep grief at the sad demise of Shri-mati Baijilalji Shri Jitendra Kumari Sahiban, the Rani Sahiba of Khandela and the eldest daughter of the Darbar, on the 19th August 1944. All offices, courts and schools were kept closed for three days as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

With deep sorrow, news were received of the sad demise on the 26th October 1944 of Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice. Out of respect to the memory of the deceased court mourning was observed for two weeks.

With deep sorrow, news received of the sad and sudden demise of President Roosevelt of United States of America on the 12th April 1945. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the flags were flown at half mast on the 15th April 1945, the day appointed for his burial.

News About the sad demise on the 28th April 1945 of His Highness Maharao Raja Shri Sir Ishwari Singhji Sahib Bahadur, G.C.I.E. of Bundi, was received with heartfelt sorrow. In view of the friendly relations between the two States, all offices, courts and schools were kept closed for three days in honour of the memory of the deceased.

The State was plunged into deep and heavy grief by the passing away of Shrimati Rajmata Shri Bhatianiji Sahiban, the mother of Maharanaaji Shri Sahib Bahadur, on the 25th October 1945, at the ripe old age of 67, after an illness of about a month. All offices, courts and schools were kept closed for three days, the bazars were spontaneously closed and all business stopped for three days, as a mark honour and respect to the memory of the great and benevolent departed soul. Court mourning was observed for two weeks.

(xi) War Efforts.

In keeping with its traditional loyalty to the British Crown, the State offered to place the entire resources of the State at the disposal of the British Government immediately after the out-break of the War in September 1939, and has since then continued to keep doing all within its power to assist in the prosecution of the War to a successful termination.

A local War Committee established in 1940 continued to work during the years under report. National War Front Propaganda was carried on throughout the State. It included among other things, 'Grow More Food' campaign, checking and detecting hoarding of small coins and controlled commodities, counteracting rumours and disseminating correct war news etc., etc. The committee also arranged gratis distribution of weekly war Bulletins and gave widest publicity to cultural

articles, Indian Information Series and other War literature received from the National War Front's central organization. All these activities succeeded in maintaining the moral of the public and in eradicating defeatist rumours and alarms.

Over and above the contributions made to the different War Funds in the previous years, the Darbar gave following contributions during the years under report:-

1.	H. E. the Viceroy's War purposes Fund.	Rs. 5,000
2.	H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, but earmarked for utilization towards the benefit of the Royal Indian Navy and its Benevolent Association.	Rs. 5,000
3.	All-India Red Cross Week. '	Rs. 300
4.	Bengal Flood Relief Fund.	Rs. 2,000
5.	War Fete at Abu... ..	Rs. 40
6.	Armistice Day Poppy Fund.	Rs. 50
Total.		<u>Rs. 12,390</u>

CHAPTER II.

Land Administration.

Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji, Revenue Commissioner,
Continued to be at the helm of the
PERSONNEL. Revenue Department, throughout the

years under report.

Under him, Mr. Nathalal Gulabram Dave, an experienced Officer of long standing, continued to be Revenue Officer.

For purposes of administration, the State is divided
into 5 Mahals, viz Danta or Sath,
UNITS OF ADMINISTRATION AND
THEIR WORKING. Mataji, Hadad. Tarsang and Joita.

Each Mahal except the first is in charge of a Mahalkari who discharges revenue functions and is also invested with magisterial powers and who, in respect of revenue affairs, is under the Revenue Department and in judicial matters, is subordinate to the judiciary. All the Mahalkaris are local officers of experience and standing. Danta Mahal is in charge of a Tehesildar who attends entirely to revenue matters and is not invested with magisterial work and powers. The Mahalkaris and Tehesildar have under them a staff of Talatis and Havildars for groups of villages, who attend to village accounts and collection of land revenue etc.,

The prevailing land assessment system in vogue in the State is the Bhag Batai or share rental one and all the cultivators are tenants at-will. However, such continuity and permanency is maintained by the State that it is not uncommon to find the cultivators who have been occupying and cultivating the land since generations without let or hindrance, provided that the family tree does not cease to exist. The Bhag Batai collection system has, by long experience, been found to be beneficial to the conjoined interests of the State and the ryots. The main advantages of the tenancy and assessment system prevailing in the State are that they obviate the necessity of suspension and remission of assessment so often the bone of contention between the Government and people and consequent discontent among the subjects. Besides, it does not need the introduction of legislation for prevention of land passing from the hands of bonafide agriculturist into those of non-agriculturist or capitalist.

The soil in some parts of Danta and Joita Mahals is alluvial and sandy, formed by the aqueous action of rivers and that in the other Mahals is clayey loam, formed by the disintegration of rock in situ. The soil is on the whole found to be rich and fertile and capable of producing good crops.

The agricultural population of the State chiefly consists of Dungri Bhills, Garassias, Kolis, Thakardas, Kunbis, Mumans and

Rajputs. The Census of 1941 reveals that 75 percent of the total population depends upon agriculture and allied occupations. The Bhills, and Garassias, who constitute a majority of the agrarian population, are very backward and poor cultivators. They resort to a sort of shifting and scattered cultivation since self-sufficiency is their motto. As a matter of fact they do not differ from the notorious gypsies in their itinerancy and impermanence of abode and are almost averse to any idea of attachment, possession and ownership. Since people with such primitive ideas form the bulk of the agrarian population it has been found extremely difficult to effect a revenue settlement or to replace the present nature of tenancy by any other permanent sort.

Attempts have been made in the past, without any tangible and appreciable result, to effect a change in their manner and mode of life, but in-view of their temperamental aversion to cast off their conventional mantle, they have all proved vain. Inducements have been given and held out for free primary education and yet they have been fanatically refusing to send their children to such school or to take advantage of them. It may perhaps be suggested by the successful experimenters in the field of education that compulsory education can solve the difficulty. But facts are some times more bitter than fancies. By instinct they do not claim affinity or tie^{of} any sort with any body or anything and any such step on the part of the State results in threatening a rising or emigration on their part as has been already learnt by the bitter experience of the past.

The only reliable classes of cultivators, are, therefore, the Mumans, Kunbis and Rajputs, who being in minority and small in number the Staple food crops grown and produced in the State are just enough to meet with its local demands.

The chief Kharif or monsoon crops grown are maize, seŕamum, castor, coarse millets, Bajri-
 STAPLE CROPS. and cereals. Among the Rabi or cold

weather crops are mainly wheat, gram and rapeseed, while in the hot weather maize and certain coarse millets are chiefly grown.

The rain-fall of 1942-43, on which the prospects of
 1943-44. depended, was quite good
 SEASON AND OUT-TURN being as much as 43 inches and 86
 cents, and brought in an abundance of water in wells, tanks and rivers. Consequently the out-turn of crops in 1943-44 was good and satisfactory.

The rain-fall of 1943-44 on which the harvest of 1944-45 depended, was very heavy, in fact not only heavy but unprecedented and unwitnessed before, being as much as 66 inches and 66 cents. Very heavy and continuous rainfall was experienced in August 1944, as much as 10 inches being recorded at some places within 24 hours. This incessant and heavy down-pour caused a good deal of damage to Kharif crops, but the Rabi and hot weather cultivation proved quite compensating in 1944-45.

The rain-fall during 1944-45, on which the crops of 1945-46 will depend, was fairly normal though not quite timely

and evenly distributed; total fall recorded being 38 inches and 75 cents. Consequently, though the Kharif crop of 1944-45, was rather poor due to untimely rains, the prospects of Rabi and hot weather crops for 1945-46 may be considered satisfactory.

Grass and fodder were sufficient, and no scarcity of either was felt in any part of the State or at any time during the period under report.

GRASS AND FODDER.

The general condition of the cattle remained good until the rains of 1943-44. During the heavy rains of that year, however, goat and sheep got sick and crippled in numbers. In some places cows and bullocks also suffered from rinderpest and there was a general debility in the cattle and a number of them died too. Among horses, camels and donkeys also a disease crept in, and in some places a few of them died on account of the disease.

Statistics relating to the agricultural stock in the State, for the two years under report, are put in a tabular form below:-

AGRICULTURAL STOCK.

Particulars.			1943-44	1944-45
Oxen & Bullocks.	...	...	12068	11012
Cows.	...	...	21448	18535
Buffaloes.	...	...	11732	9748
Horses.	...	...	427	335
Mares.	...	...	198	116
Donkeys.	...	...	1028	649
Sheep & Goats.	...	...	28119	21118
Ploughs.	...	...	6297	5506
Carts.	...	...	249	221

The sufficiency of grass and fodder during the years under review should have normally tended to bring about a general increase in the number of cattle, but this having been counteracted by the appearance of disease in cattle, there is no appreciable increase in their number over the preceeding years' stock position.

The harvest being good and satisfactory and the trend of prices of agricultural products much to their advantage, the economic condition of the cultivators was much better than in normal years.

Likewise, the rates of wages for labour and margin of the trade having also risen due to war condition, the economic condition of the labouring classes and businessmen was also on the whole very satisfactory.

Far the most important and prevailing method of irrigating crops is the lifting of water from wells by Arath or Persian wheel contrivance. Subsoil water is found fairly well near at a depth ranging from 25 to 40 feet below the ground level and the countryside abounds in such wells with Persian wheels working on them. Next to wells in importance is the water furnished by Sarans. People by the riverside usually throw temporary earthen bunds across the currents of the rivers or streams and thus divert water through Sarans or channels to their fields. Last but not the least important are the irrigation tanks. There are in all four such tanks in the State, two having been

constructed by the State as long ago as in 1899-1900 and the remaining two in 1940-41. These tanks were filled to their capacity during the years under report and it was possible to supply water to a large tract of land.

In the interest of affording increasing facilities of irrigation the Darbar have, since 1939-40, launched a scheme of constructing new irrigation tanks wherever it is possible to do so, and of improving the old ones that may have been discarded or gone out of use for one reason or the other. In keeping with this scheme the old discarded tank at village Solsanda in Tarsang Mahal, taken in hand in the preceeding years, was pursued further and completed before the monsoon of 1944. It is a very old tank whose catchment and capacity had been impaired by the settling down of silt in the bed of the tank and by the wash-aways and breaches in the bund. The catchment inlets were, therefore, cleared, silt removed from the bed, wash-aways and breaches in the bund were repaired and the whole length of the bund was freshly stone-pitched and consolidated. The whole work was completed before the setting in of the rains in June 1944. The subsequent good rains have helped to fill the tank with water to its capacity and it has been possible to arrange to let water from it, during the years under report, to a steadily growing demand. So far about 150 bighas of land has had the benefit of irrigation and growing crops in all seasons, which until the improvement to the tank

was growing only dry of Kharif crops. It is estimated that a further area of 50 bighas can be given the facilities of irrigation without impunity or loss to the area already irrigated.

In the interest of development of agriculture, the State has always been enthusiastically following the policy of encouraging the ryots to sink new wells by giving them liberal concessions and help in all possible ways as follows:-

CONCESSIONS FOR SINKING
NEW WELLS AND OTHER STEPS
FOR GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

1. by grant or advance of taccavi loans at a low rate of interest or even without interest, repayable by small annual instalments.
2. by gratuitous remission of vaje-the share rental due to the State,-for a certain number of years; or
3. by paying gratuitously the full expenses of construction from the State.

The Mahalkaris and other revenue officials went round from village to village making vigorous propaganda to induce the cultivators to bring more area under cultivation and to grow more food-grains. further, to provide encouragement to cultivators to grow more food, facilities were given for repairing of old wells where needed and they were also helped with purchase of bullocks and seed by advances of taccavi loans from the State.

The result of these tempting concession and wide propaganda was quite satisfactory as is evinced from the fact

that 53 new wells were sunk and 29 old wells were repaired and more area was sown with foodgrain crops during the years under review. This brings the total number of pucca wells in the State to 861 in 1943-44 and to 889 at the close of the year 1944-45.

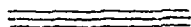
With a view to help forward the ryots in their efforts for advancement of agriculture, **TACCAVI ADVANCES.** taccavi loans were advanced to needy cultivators, at low rate of interest, for bonafide productive purposes, viz: purchase of seed, cattle and implements, sinking of new wells and repairs to old wells etc., to the extent of Rs. 14731 and Rs. 13112 during the years 1943-44 and 1944-45, respectively.

The total collections from land revenue inclusive of **RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.** recoveries of past arrears, amounted to Rs. 1,31222 during 1943-44 and to Rs. 1,27127 during 1944-45.

The expenditure on the Revenue Department, amounted to Rs. 12,959 in 1943-44 and to Rs. 12584 in 1944-45.

CHAPTER III.

Revenue and Finance.



Income from all sources during the years under review
INCOME. amounted to Rs. 354628 & Rs. 331842

which, with the opening balances of
Rs. 15107 & Rs. 19373 bring the total receipts to Rs. 369, 735
in 1943-44 and Rs. 351, 215 in 1944-45.

2. The total expenditure during the years under report
EXPENDITURE. amounted to Rs. 350, 362 in 1943-44
and Rs. 331, 064 in 1944-45 leaving a
balance of Rs. 19373 and Rs. 20151 at the close of the
respective years.

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS.

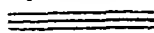
No	Description of Item.	1943-44. Rs.	1944-45. Rs.
1	Balance brought over	15107	19373
2	Land Revenue	131222	127127
3	Local cess	599	547
4	Customs Revenue	87615	83452
5	Forest Revenue	34315	29273
6	Opium & Abkari Revenue including		
	Bhang & Ganja	46115	44383
7	Stamps & Registration	4318	3997
8	Salami	153	148
9	Law & Justice	11755	12109
10	Recoveries of arrears	17161	13863
11	Miscellaneous receipts	5355	4329
12	House Sites	11278	8858
13	Nazarana	4742	3756
	Grand Total...	3,69,735	3,51,215
		15,107	19,373

STATEMENT SHOWING DISBURSEMENTS

No.	Description of item.	1943-44 Rs.	1944-45. Rs.
1	Administration	97775	96194
2	Police Deptt.	24739	24250
3	Education Deptt.	16958	16128
4	Med'cal Deptt.	18878	19753
5	Public Works Deptt.	23373	21649
6	Palace Deptt.	73232	71489
7	Dharamada, Charity	5061	4505
8	Kamgiri & Travelling	8445	7352
9	Stables & Garage	22641	23557 X
10	Topkhana	4047	3998
11	Ghasdana	2283	2283
12	Taccavi advances	14731	13112
13	Pension Gratuity	6250	6145
14	Body Guards	15443	15050
15	Unforeseen Charges	4116	5599 A
16	Contribution & Donation	12390	...
Total ..		3,50362	3,31064
Balance carried forward .		19373	20151
Grand Total .		3,69735	3,51215

CHAPTER IV.

Protection.



(i) Law and order.

The State has got some local laws and regulations of its own. The Courts are principally guided by these laws and in practice and procedure in matters both civil and Criminal follow the spirit of the laws in force in British India.

LEGISLATION.

A number of new enactments and ordinances were promulgated and introduced during the years under report. These were particularly necessitated by exigencies of the War, and are intended to be kept in force for the duration of the War only or till such time thereafter as may be found necessary.

For the administration of justice the following courts have been constituted to function with varying degrees of judicial powers:-

CONSTITUTION OF COURTS.

1. The four Mahalkaris' Courts at Shri Ambaji, Tarsang, Hadad and Joita, which are invested with powers to hear suits up to the value of Rs. 500 and also

to exercise powers of Second Class Magistrate, within their respective Mahals.

2. The Court of the State Munsiff, which is empowered to hear all kind of civil suits relating to property and other rights as well as money transactions up to the value of Rs. 5,000. The Court is also invested with powers of a first class Magistrate and powers of a District Magistrate for the whole State.
3. Next in order comes the Court of the Naib Dewan, which is empowered to hear civil suits of the value of more than Rs. 5,000 but less than Rs. 10,000 on the original side. It also exercises the powers of a District and Sessions Court and, as such has the powers to hear appeals against the decisions of the State Munsiff and all Magistrates.
4. The Court of the Dewan exercises the powers of a High Court. On its original side it is endowed with full civil powers to hear all kinds of suits and is also empowered to hear appeals over the decisions of the District and Sessions Court.
5. The Huzur Court, presided over by the Darbar, is the highest and the final Court of Appeal in the State, in all civil and criminal matters.

The working of the Civil Courts in the State, in respect of the original civil suits, is shown below in a tabular form:-

ORIGINAL CIVIL SUITS.

No.	Particulars.	1943-44	1944-45
1	No. of suits on file, before the Courts, at the commencement of the year. ...	9	8
2	No. ⁷ suits freshly filed during the year.	11	4
3	Total No. of suits to be disposed. ...	20	12
4	No. of suits disposed during the year.	12	8
5	No. of suits pending disposal at the close of the year.	8	4
6	Total value of suits filed... ..	6230-1-9	3247-8 0

The total number of revisions and appeals filed during the period under report and pending at the beginning of the period in the Huzur Court, the High Court and the District Court was nil, 1 and nil respectively.

CIVIL APPEALS AND REVISIONS.

The number of revisions and appeals disposed of in the Huzur Court was nil, in the High Court was 1 and in the District Court was nil respectively. The number remaining pending at the close of

DISPOSAL OF CIVIL APPEALS
& REVISIONS.

the period under review in the Huzur Court, the High Court and the District Court was nil, nil and nil respectively.

The number of appeals in which the decisions of lower courts were confirmed was and those in which they were reversed or modified was nil and 1 respectively.

The working of the Civil Courts, in respect of the execution of decrees is tabulated below:-

No.	Particulars.	1943-44	1944-45
1	No. of applications brought over from the previous year.	4	5
2	No. of applications freshly made. ..	3	1
3	Total of applications.	7	6
4	No. of applications disposed of. ...	2	1
5	No. of applications remaining undisposed.	5	5
6	Total value of decrees presented for execution.	1374-9-9	1584-0-6
7	Total value of decrees executed. ...	77-10-0	287-0-9
8	Total value of decrees remaining unexecuted at the close of the year....	1296-15-9	1296-15-9

The working of the Criminal Courts in the State, in
 CRIMINAL CASES. respect of trial of offences, both
 cognizable and non-cognizable, and of

the offenders brought to trial, is given below in separate tables:-

Table I. —Trial of Offences.

No.	Particulars.	1943-44.	1944-45.
1	No. of offences under trial at commencement of the year. ...	41	79
2	No. of offences brought to trial during the year.	113	128
3	Total of offences on trial ...	154	207
4	No. of offences tried during the year.	75	111
5	No. of offences pending at close of year.	79	96

Table II —Trail of Offenders.

No.	Particulars.	1943-44	1944-45.
1	No. of persons brought to trial during the year.	219	333
2	No. of persons acquitted or discharged.	54	83
3	No. of persons convicted....	39	79
4	No. of persons committed or transferred.	18	8
5	No. of persons absconded or died during trial.	1	5
6	No. of persons awaiting trial at close of the year.	107	158

The number of revision applications and criminal appeals filed during the period under review and pending at the commencement of the period in the Huzur Court, High Court and the Sessions Court was nil, nil and 5 respectively.

The result of appeals and revisions in criminal cases is shown below:-

RESULT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
& REVISIONS.

1 Appeals or revisions dismissed or sentences confirmed.	...	3
2 Sentences modified. ...	...	1
3 Sentences reversed. ..	...	0
4 Proceedings quashed.	...	1
5. Further enquiry ordered.	...	0

The system of direct services of summons between this State and the neighbouring States and British Indian Provinces is in force and continued to work satisfactorily.

DIRECT SYSTEM OF SUMMONS.

Extradition arrangements for the direct surrender of offenders between this State and the neighbouring States of Palanpur, Sirohi, Jodhpur and Udaipur are in force. Similar arrangements were made and agreed to between Idar and this State, during the period under report. All these arrangements continued to give mutual satisfaction.

EXTRADITION.

The following Statement gives details of extradition cases and number of offenders surrendered by and to this State during the period under review:-

No. of cases.	No. of Offenders.	Extradited from.	Extradited to.
0	0	Danta State	British Indian provinces.
1	1	Danta State	Indian States.
0	0	British Indian provinces.	Danta State.
5	6	Indian States.	Danta State.

The work connected with the registration of documents was, as heretofore, conducted by the
 REGISTRATION. Dewan's Court. Below is given a summary of registration work done during the years under report:-

No	Particulars.	1943-44	1944-45
1	No. of documents. registered. ...	8	6
2	Value of property involved.... ...	2,364	2,005
3	registration fee realized.... ...	83	72

(ii) Police.

The total Police force of the State, consisting of 150 rank and file, is divided into two classes, viz, (1) foot police for

COMPOSITION AND STRENGTH OF
POLICE FORCE

maintenance of peace, law and order, and (2) mounted Police for similar duties and for distant patrols.

Besides the Police force, the State maintains an irregular force of Body Guards consisting of 70 persons strong who are mostly employed for guard duties at the Treasury and Palaces, and for miscellaneous watch and ward duties. The bag-pipe Band attached to this unit provides music on parades, ceremonial occasions and State functions.

The ratios of the police force to the population and to the area of the State, are one police to 207.4 heads of population and one police to 2.3 square miles of territory respectively. The proportions may look a little high, but the hilly nature of the country, the extended and long frontiers with other States all around, the turbulent nature of the hill tribes, viz; Bhills and Garassias, inhabiting on both sides and their mischievous propensities, all these and other considerations necessitate the maintenance of a strong consolidated Police Force, in the interest of law, order, tranquility and effective bandobust.

The Police Department continued to be in charge of

PERSONNEL. Mr. Udainath G. Purohit, the Superintendent of Police. He is a qualified and

experienced police officer, having been educated at the Police Training School, Saugar, wherefrom he passed the final examination with distinction, and having had previous experience of police work in Bansiwara State. Besides, there are one Assistant

Superintendent of Police and five Sub Inspectors of Police posted in charge of the different Mahals of the State. Of the five Sub-Inspectors, one has had the benefit of receiving training at the Police Training School, Baroda at State expense.

There are 5 Police Stations, 15 Out-posts and 6 road patrol Chowkies in the State. Each has its standard strength.

To improve the general tone and efficiency of the Police, all possible attention is paid to the training of the personnel. Training and drilling of the constabulary is looked after by the trained Superintendent and Sub-Inspectors, assisted by a drill instructor, a discharged Non-Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army.

Training and drilling of the Body Guards is looked after by a discharged Non-Commissioned Officer of the Indian Army, a War veteran who saw active service overseas in Mesopotamia and East Africa during the first World War (1914-18).

Both the forces are supplied with full uniform dresses and armed, the Police Force with 134 breech loading rifles and the Body Guards with 50 rifles of 303 bore.

The work and discipline of the forces, during the years under report, was on the whole satisfactory, though times and circumstances on account of war conditions were a great handicap in maintaining the standard in as much as neither proper clothing nor sufficient number of men to fill up vacancies could be available for the forces.

The extra-ordinarily high wages obtained by men in labour, both within and outside the State, created difficulties in finding suitable men to fill up vacancies of deserters and discharged or dismissed men and necessitated relaxation in the age limits and height and chest measurements in order to maintain the required strength. Similarly Khakhi Cloth for uniforms being unobtainable, the uniforms had to be prepared from coarse cloth dyed blue, and field caps of the same material had to be substituted for safas. This change naturally adversely affected the general appearance and smartness of the men.

The total number of cognizable cases registered by
 CRIME. Police during the years under report
 are shown below:-

Class of Crime.	1943-44.	1944 45.
Heinous offences under sections 302, 304, 307, 309, 392 and 399 etc. ...	4	5
House breaking and trespass. ...	4	2
Theft ordinary. ...	15	21
Cattle lifting. ...	11	16
Hurt and Assault. ...	—	1
Offences under Defence of India Rules. ...	1	—
Other Offences. ...	14	27
total..	49	72

The following statement shows the working of the
 POLICE INVESTIGATION WORK AND RESULTS. Police during the years under report:-

No.	Particulars.	1943-44	1944-45
1	Cases reported to Police. ...	49	72
2	Accused arrested	39	73
3	Accused sent for trial.	34	59
4	Persons convicted.	17	37
5	Persons acquitted or discharged. ...	0	7
6	Accused pending trial.	17	15
7	Percentage of conviction.	50	62

The total value of property stolen and recovered during
 the years under review, as also the
 PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED. percentage of property recovered to
 that stolen are tabulated below:-

No.	Particulars.	1943-44	1944-45
1	Property stolen. Rs.	3,877	6,094
2	Property recovered Rs.	1,350	2,798
3	Percentage of recovery.	28.2	45.9

The low percentages of recoveries, to be seen in the statement above, are due to the fact that the offences of house-breaking and thefts which generally come to be committed by unknown persons at night, often come to be reported to the Police too late, which allows sufficient time and opportunity to the offenders to escape with the stolen property to the adjoining States. Moreover, the offenders who generally belong to the adjacent States get facilities to disappear and dispose of the stolen property, which handicaps the Police considerably in bringing the culprits to book. All possible efforts, however, are being directed to enlist the co-operation of the adjoining States in this behalf.

Accidents caused by fire reported during 1943-44 and 1944-45 were 4 and 5 respectively. 15
 ACCIDENTS. and 7 deaths from various occurrences

were caused in the same period, as per details given below:-

No.	Particulars.	1943-44.	1944-45.
1	No. of deaths caused by suicides ...	5	4
2	by snake bite ...	2	1
3	by drowning ...	3	0
4	by wild animals ...	1	0
5	by other accidents ...	4	2
	Total...	15	7

EXPENDITURE

(iii) Jail

JAIL AND LOCK-UPS.

HEALTH AND WORK*

The First Class Magistrate works ex-officio as Jail Superintendent and the Chief Medical Officer looks after the health of the prisoners and sanitation and hygiene at the Jail.

Below is given a Statement regarding the confinees in

JAIL POPULATION.

Particulars.	1943-44	1944-45
No. of confinees at the commencement of the year.	29	40
No. admitted during the year	48	43
Total No. of inmates	77	83
No. of confinees released during the year	37	39
No. of confinees at the close of the year.	40	44

CHAPTER V.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

(1) Trend of Labour and Prices.

The population of the State mainly consisting of agriculturists, only a few who may happen to be out of employment on account of the lack of means either of land or capital, are available for employment as labourers in the fields, or in the Public Works Department of the State. There are no industries in the State, that may necessitate employment of organized labour. The following statement will give an idea of the average daily wages of skilled and unskilled labour that prevailed during the years under report.

Kind of labour.			Daily wages in 1943-44 1944-45.	
Unskilled labour,	...	...	Rs. 0-8-0	0-10-0
Black-Smiths. ...	...	...	Rs. 1-8-0	2-0-0
Masons. ...	...	...	Rs. 1-8 0	2-0 0
Carpenters. ...	...	...	Rs. 1-8 0	2-0-0

Although the rains were good and the seasonal crops satisfactory, their prices ruled much higher than in previous years. The prices of foodstuffs in the State generally depend upon conditions obtaining in markets in British India, and, with the rise in prices outside, there had to be a corresponding rise in the prices here.

The table below shows the average prevailing prices of principal food-grains in the State, during the years under report:-

Kind of grain.	Prices per 40 lbs. ^b					
	1943-44			1944-45		
	Rs.	As.	Ps	Rs.	As.	Ps
Wheat.	4	8	0	5	0	0
Bajri.	3	0	0	3	8	0
Oats.	3	0	0	3	8	0
Maize.	3	0	0	3	8	0
Mung pulses.	7	0	0	9	0	0
Udad pulses.	5	0	0	6	8	0
Coarse millets.	1	4	0	1	8	0

(ii) Trade.

The chief trade of the State consists in the export of agricultural and forest produce which hardly exceeds the bare requirements

of the State subjects, unless of course the rains are exceptionally favourable and evenly distributed so as to give bumper harvests. The Chief items of export are wheat, maize, gram, til rape-seeds, ghee, etc, and forest produce viz: bamboo, baskets, timber, gums and resins, honey, wax, musali etc., The chief imports are cloth, sugar, gur, rice, cereals, salt, spices, condiments, kerosine, petrol, Stationery, Cutlery and other provisions of necessary use.

TRADE CONDITIONS In the absence of any plants of industry and production of articles of competitive trade within the State, the local markets, which are

solely dependent on materials imported from outside, remained greatly disturbed, during the period under report, owing to the spasmodic upheavals in the markets outside.

(iii) Customs Department.

CUSTOMS DUTY ON EXPORT & IMPORT. An ad-valorem customs duty is levied on all imports and exports in accordance with the revised schedule of rates passed and put into force from 30th October 1932. Changes in the rates are, however, made and exports of specified items are banned for specific periods in order to meet with the exigencies of ^{times} items.

ORGANIZATION. The Customs Department continued to remain under the Charge of Rao Sahib Gulabsinghji Parmar, as Customs Superintendent, throughout the period under report. The Department maintains

10 customs out-posts or nakas under nakedars for the levy of customs duties.

In order to conserve the animal wealth of the State so essential in the pursuit of agriculture and animal husbandry which was reported to be depleted by export in large numbers in the preceeding years, a ban on the export of all cattle was placed at the beginning of the period under report.

Similarly with a view to make the State self-sufficient by conserving the essential foodstuffs. as far as possible, export of all food grains and Ghee, without the special export permit of the State, was prohibited. This measure produced the desired effect in as much as the State had no need to import, within the period under report, any essential foodgrains from outside, except rice which is not grown in the State.

The total receipts of this Department during the years under report, amounted to Rs. 87615 in 1943-44 and to Rs. 83452 in 1944-45.

(iv) Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department of the State continued to remain in charge of Mr. Amarsingh S. Palrey, assisted by one Overseer.

The total length of the motorable roads in the State is 256 miles, most of which is serviceable only during the fair weather months.

ROADS.

A good road is a joy and a blessing to the cultivator,

IMPROVEMENTS IN MEANS OF
COMMUNICATIONS.

as it saves a lot of trouble to his animals and puts within his easy reach the markets for the disposal of his produce. It is no less a comfort to the trader or tourist. It is, therefore, the ceaseless and incessant desire and care of the Darbar to have a net-work of motorable roads in the State and to improve and consolidate the ones already in existence with a view to make them serviceable all throughout the year irrespective of seasons. The road between Shri Ambaji and Danta Bhavangadh, a length of about 14 miles, was taken in hand during the years under report.

The consolidation of the road consisted of constructing culverts and low bridges over nullahs and streams. Most of the work was completed by the close of the period under report with the exception of a low bridge across Unkachali stream near the capital which had to be left over for the succeeding years. This road when completed will connect the towns of Shri Ambaji and Danta Bhavangadh with the railway line at Abu Road and thereby afford immense facilities to the people in all weathers.

Necessary repairs to other roads and streets in the towns of Shri Ambaji and Danta Bhavangadh were effected by the Department during

ROAD REPAIRS.

the period under review.

Another work of public utility, undertaken and completed by the P.W.D. during the years under report, was the remodelling of an

SOLSANDA IRRIGATION TANK
PROJECT.

irrigation tank at village Solsanda, Tarsang Mahal, which had gone out of use for over a number of years. It is an ancient tank whose catchment and capacity had been impaired due to silting and breaches in the bund. The catchment inlets, therefore, were cleared, silt removed from the bed, breaches to the bund repaired and the whole length of the bund was stone-pitched and consolidated against erosion. The completion of the tank has helped to bring a considerable tract of surrounding land under irrigation.

The total expenditure on the P.W.D. Department aggregated to Rs. 23373 in 1943-44 and to Rs. 21649 in 1944-45.

EXPENDITURE.

(V) Forests.

There are large areas covered with forest in the State but they contain no valuable timber.

GENERAL.

The forests exist in the shape of hills spreading almost all over the State with a number of unworkable areas and blanks, and may be classified as "low forests".

The principal forest products are (a) Major Produce:-

FOREST PRODUCTS.

second and third class timber, bamboo, fire-wood and charcoal, (b) Minor Produce:- Honey, wax, gums and resins, Amla, Beheda, Timbru leaves, catechu etc.

Whatever timber is available is mainly used up by the cultivators in preparing ploughs, persian-wheels, agricultural implements and huts. The firewood species of trees are found in abundance and fetch firewood for local requirements.

Bamboo is to be found extensively in the hilly tracts of Shri Ambaji Mahal. It is exploited on royalty system and yields a good revenue.

The minor forest produce is exploited on contract system, monopolies being given out in open auctions for collection of each such produce separately.

The total forest revenue for the years under report, amounted to Rs 34315 in 1943-44 and to Rs. 29273 in 1944-45.

REVENUE.

There exist large deposits of white marble of a superior grade and type, in the vicinity of Shri Ambaji. Negotiations were in progress for their exploitation, but the exigencies of war and rationing of petrol constrained the parties concerned to post-pone the enterprise till the successful conclusion of the War.

MARBLE QUARRIES.

(VI) Excise And Abkari.

The Abkari Department is regularized on the Madras System from the past few years. Before its introduction a monopoly for the distillation and sale of country liquor was given to a contractor. The change was well advised as is evidenced by the rise in the Abkari revenue to the State.

ABKARI SYSTEM.

The State maintains a Distillery and a Ware-House at
DISTILLERY AND DEPOT. Danta Bhavangadh and liquor to various
shops in the State is issued from it.

The number of shops for retail vend is 31. The base for
distillation is Mohuva flowers, which are generally imported from
the Panch Mahal District.

Opium and other narcotic drugs for local consumption
OPIUM & OTHER DRUGS. were imported from Government
Depots at Indore and Ahmedabad.

The total gross revenue under the combined head of
REVENUE. Excise and Abkari amounted to
Rs. 46115 in 1943-44 and to Rs. 44383 in 1944-45.

CHAPTER VI.

Education.

The Education Department continued to be under general guidance of Mr. Phahlad J. Pathak, B. A. (Hon), LL. B., the Educational Officer of the State.

PERSONNAL.

Mr. Madhavsingh B. Rao, a qualified and trained teacher, whose services are loaned to the State, by the District School Board, Ahmedabad, continued to hold office of the educational inspector throughout the period under report.

Education, both primary and middle, is imparted free throughout the State.

FREE EDUCATION.

The State maintains one Anglo-Gujarati Middle School for boys and one Gujarati Primary School for girls at Danta Bhavangadh, the capital of the State, and four Gujarati Primary Schools in the mofussil, at Shri Ambaji, Punjpur, Navowas and Hadad. The Anglo-Gujarati Middle School imparts instructions up to standard VII in Gujarati and upto standard III in English. The Girls' School and the other Gujarati Primary Schools in the mofussil impart instructions upto standard VII in Gujarati.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS.

The Girls' School, started some years ago, being increasingly availed of by parents, has been made permanent. All the institutions are found working satisfactorily and attendance therein is regular.

The details about the number of students on rolls average ^{Attendance} ~~ATTENDING.~~ daily attendance and percentage of attendance for the two years under report are tabulated below:-

Particulars.			1943 44.	1944-45.
No. of Students on rolls.	...	..	305	237
Average daily attendance.	...	..	203	168
Percentage of attendance	...	...	67.4	59.6

Daily attendance and incidentally the percentage of attendance were affected adversely by heavy rainfall and consequent prevalence of fevers and illness.

In the interest of preservation and betterment of the health of children, attending Schools, the Medical Department of the State was instructed to examine them at least once a year, to treat the ailing children and to report the progress or defects in their health to their parents and guardians, from time to time, with a view to enlisting their co-operation in their proper treatment and satisfactory nourishment. In cases where parents or guardians

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

were found unable to meet with the expenses of treatment, such treatment was given at State expense.

The schools at Danta Bhavangadh and Shri Ambaji have already the benefit of periodical medical examination and treatment and the benefit is expected to be extended to other village schools as well in the succeeding years.

Moral and physical training of the students continued to receive careful attention of the
MORAL AND PHYSICAL TRAINING Department. The students are usually paraded in their respective classes, at the commencement of the school hours, to say common prayers and two periods per week are usually set apart and devoted to giving them moral instructions. There is a spacious play ground, provided on the outskirts of the capital, where the students of the Anglo-Gujarati Middle school are daily taken out to play cricket, foot ball, volley-ball and other out-door games in the open air.

To stimulate and promote interest for higher education,
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER STUDIES. Darbar have, for some years past, put into operation a scheme of granting handsome scholarships and stipends to poor and deserving students in order to enable them to prosecute higher studies outside the State. Three scholarships to the value of Rs 55 per mensem, which were granted in the preceeding years for High School education, were continued during the period under report. All of them are being gratefully availed of.

The monetary relief so afforded continued to prove an incentive and encouragement to the backward and poor classes to send their children for higher education, and continued to enable scholars, who, due to financial difficulties of their parents or traditional illiteracy, would not have otherwise been in a position to do so, to prosecute their studies further with enthusiasm.

With a view to provide an impetus and encouragement to the spread of education among the boys of the Rajput community who are traditionally averse to sending their wards to schools, the Darbar have been pleased to sanction the starting and maintenance of a Rajput Boys Hostel at the capital. The institution was started in June 1945 by admitting in the first instance a batch of five poor Rajput boys from the villages of the State. They receive free board, lodging and schooling, the entire cost of the undertaking being met by the State. It is expected that the facility so afforded will, in years to come, be increasingly availed of by the Rajput community for the education of their children.

Every year on the occasions of the birth-day anniversaries of the Heir-Apparent and the Darbar, special programmes of athletic sports and competitive games of boys and girls of the schools are arranged and prizes distributed to winners and candidates successful at the preceeding year's annual examinations. These prize distribution ceremonies were performed on 26th July and 29th August in 1944 and 14th August and 15th September in

PRIZE DISTRIBUTIONS.

1945, the birth-day occasions of the Helr Apparent and the Darbar respectively.

Total expen^diture of the Education Department during
the years under report, amounted to
EXPENDITURE. Rs. 16958 for 1943 44 and to Rs. 16128
for 1944-45.

CHAPTER VII.

Medical Relief and Vital Statistics.

Entirely free medical relief is afforded by the Darbar
MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS. at the following two medical institutions
maintained in the State, Namely:-

- (1) Central Hospital, Danta Bhavangadh,
- (2) and Dispensary, Shri Ambaji.

Dr. Shantilal D. Dave, M. B. B. S., (Bomb.) continued to
PERSONNEL. be the Chief Medical Officer of the
State and in charge of the Central
Hospital, Danta Bhavangadh, and Dr. Bansidhar Sharma L.M.P.,
(Retired Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Ajmer-Merwara) continued
to be Assistant Medical Officer in charge of the Dispensary,
Shri Ambaji, throughout the years under report.

There was unusually heavy malaria in 1943-44 owing
STARTING OF A NEW AYURVEDIC DISPENSARY. probably to the very heavy rainfall of
the year. and it raged considerably
throughout the State. The annual quota of quinine allotted
by the Government of India, being small and limited on account

of its non-availability due to war, it became imperative for the State to find out other ways and means of affording relief to the people, so essential at the moment on account of the prevalence of malaria. The best alternative that could suggest itself under such dire circumstances was to make use of the indigenous herbs and drugs readily available at hand. An Ayurvedic Dispensary was, therefore, started at Danta Bhavangadh from 1st June 1944 with Mr. Natwarlal Maneklal Mehta, a qualified and experienced Vaidya of Lakhtar, in charge of it. The dispensary staff collects necessary herbs from the forests of the State where they are found in abundance, prepares drugs from them and uses them for dispensing to the public free of cost. The results achieved within a short span of a year and more are satisfactory and the Darbar contemplate continuing the Ayurvedic Dispensary for the benefit of the people, especially of the rural areas.

In order to restrict the dealers' profits in patent and other medicines sold in the markets and to make the medicines available to the public at reasonable prices, a Drugs Control Order for the State, a mutatis mutandis adoption of the British Indian Drugs Control Order, 1943, was promulgated during the period under report, under which all dealers and importers of medicines were required to obtain licenses and the maximum prices which may be charged by them were also fixed in respect of all drugs from time to time.

DRUGS CONTROL ORDER.

No difficulties were experienced in the operation of the above Order.

The Central Hospital, Danta Bhavangadh and Dispensary, Shri Ambaji, have sufficient accomodation for admission and treatment of

MEDICAL RELIEF, in-door patients. The details about the medical relief afforded, indoor and outdoor patients treated at the three medical institutions in the State, and averages of daily attendance for the two years under report are shown in the table below:-

Particulars.	1943-44.	1944-45.
No. of outdoor patients treated	57,645	60,517
No. of indoor patients treated	28	30
Average of daily attendance.	158	166

The number of surgical operations performed during 1943-44 was 248 and that during 1944-45 was 271.

SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

Principal diseases and ailments treated during the period under report were mostly of the digestive and respiratory systems, of the eye, ear, nose and throat, intestinal parasites, venereal diseases, local and general injuries, wounds, fevers, septic ulcers and tumours.

PRINCIPAL DISEASES TREATED.

There was no outbreak of epidemic in the period under report. Severe malaria, however,

EPIDEMICS.

prevailed in 1943-44 owing to the heavy rainfall of the year. No cases of guinea worms occurred as the wells, as usual were disinfected as a precautionary measure.

The health of the people which is satisfactory in general was to a certain extent impaired

PUBLIC HEALTH.

owing to the prevalence of malaria for long in 1943-44.

No case of hydrophobia occurred. In all five cases of

RABIES

snake bite were recorded, three of which successfully attended and the remaining failed due to complications or severe haemorrhage.

The number of primary vaccinations performed was

VACCINATION.

579 and 637 during 1943-44 and 1944-45 respectively, with lymph imported from the Government Vaccine Institute, Belgium.

The total expenditure incurred on the Medical Department

EXPENDITURE.

came to Rs. 18878 in 1943-44 and to Rs. 19753 in 1944-45.

The total number of births and deaths recorded during

VITAL STATISTICS.

the period under report are tabulated below:-

Particulars.			1943-44	1944-45
Number of births. ...	...	...	374	392
Number of deaths. ...	...	...	281	407

CHAPTER VIII.

Miscellaneous.

Places of pilgrimage and fairs.

There are several places of pilgrimage in the State where fairs are held and people collect together in numbers. The most important and celebrated amongst them are described below stating the occasions of fairs held:-

Shri Ambaji.—This is the most important and ancient place of pilgrimage in the State, containing a shrine of Shri Amba Bhawani Mata, the Divine Mother of the Universe. The temple is situated in a town named after it, namely Shri Ambaji or Shri Mataji and is about 14 miles from the railway station of Abu Road. A regular motor service runs between this place and Abu Road daily. It is annually visited by thousands of Hindu pilgrims from all over India and specially those from Gujarat, Kathiawar and Rajputana. Fairs are held every full-moon day and during Navratri days in the month of Ashwin. There are a number of Dharmshalas or rest houses built by the devoted votaries of the Shrine for the use of the visiting pilgrims.

Koteshwar.—At a distance of about four miles from Shri Ambaji, situated on the hill slopes and at the source of

the sacred river Saraswati is an ancient temple of Koteswar Mahadev, otherwise known as Koti Tirth and held in much veneration. All pilgrims visiting Shri Ambaji visit this place as well.

Valmik-Ashram:—A couple of furlongs from the temple of Koteswar is situated the Valmik Ashram, so called because of its being the hermitage of Rishi Valmik, and containing a Shrine of Valmikeswar, supposed to be set up by the above sage. A regular motor service runs between these two places and Shri Ambaji for the benefit of the pilgrims.

Kumbharia:—On way to Koteswar and about a mile and a half from Shri Ambaji are situated a collection of five old Jain temples, commonly known as Kumbharia temples. They were built by the celebrated Vimalshah in the 11th Century, who is also supposed to have built the Delwara temple on Mount Abu simultaneously. The temples at both the places are built of marble found locally around Kumbharia and contain some finest specimens of exquisite carving and Indian architecture. Many Jains and other pilgrims visit the temples.

Gubbar Hill:—This is a small hill, about a couple of miles from Shri Ambaji and supposed to be the abode of Devi Amba Bhawani. There is no temple on the hill, however, being held in much veneration it is usually visited by the pilgrims visiting Shri Ambaji. From the hill-top can be had a magnificent view of the surrounding country and especially of the Bhandara valley close by.

Mokeshwar or Mukteshwar:—It is a cave temple dedicated to Lord Shiva situated at a village called Mokeshwar on the banks of the river Saraswati. The presiding diety is so called due to belief that the pilgrimage to the place and religious rites performed there cause salvation. A fair is annually held at the place on the 11th day of the bright fortnight of Bhadrapad.

Maneknath:—This is a cave temple on Maneknath hill in Farsang Mahal, supposed to be the abode of a celebrated Hindu saint of the 15th century, named Maneknath. The Saint also used to reside occasionally in Ahmedabad and the well-known Manek Chowk, the hub and centre of the business and trade of that city, is supposed to have been so named in commemoration of the saint. A fair is annually held at the cave temple on the Gokul Ashtami day.

Sitla Mata:—It is a temple situated near the village of Pethapur, at a distance of about two miles from the capital. A fair is annually held here on Sitla Saptami day in the month of Shravan.

Chamundaji:—It is a temple in the limits of the village called Vasi, about three miles from the capital. A fair is held here in the month of Ashadh every year.

Municipalities.

There are only two places in the State which have been classified as townships not because of the population they contain but because of other extraneous considerations. They

are (1) Danta Bhavangadh, the capital of the State, and (2) Shri Ambaji, a centre of heavy rush and influx of pilgrims periodically. Their populations are respectively 2,312 and 767. In view of their meagre population it is considered that the time is not ripe yet to give them municipal constitutions and saddle them with extra taxations. The amenities of sanitation, water supply, good roads and streets, their scavenging and lighting, schools and medical institutions are, however, made available to them by the State at its expense and without any extra taxation which would otherwise be imposed on them, were the municipalities to come into being.

Electricity and Water Supply.

Shri Ambaji town has been provided with the amenities of electricity and water supply in the previous years, which continued to work satisfactorily throughout the period under report. The proposal for the electrification of Danta Bhavangadh has been receiving the earnest attention of the Darbar and is well under solution as the necessary power generating plant was purchased during the period under report. Its erection and installation had, however, to be put off pending such time as a supply of diesel oil for its working is assured and necessary wiring material is available. The scheme is proposed to be undertaken in the near future as a Post War Reconstruction measure.

Control of Essential Commodities.

In order to prevent undue profiteering by merchants in these abnormal times when due to War conditions trade has

come to imbibe a tendency to inflate the prices, as also to make adequate arrangements for securing supplies essential to the life of the community and make them available to the public at reasonable rates, a Control of Commodities Department has been established and is being maintained, and the prices and distribution of major foodgrains, sugar, gur, Kerosene and several other essential commodities are being controlled and their export and hoarding are also restricted.

The Control of Commodities Department is being run under the supervision and guidance of the Revenue Commissioner, who is also the Chief Controller of Commodities. He is assisted by a Controller at the headquarters and in the Mahals by Mahalkaris working as Assistant Controllers in their respective jurisdictions.

All efforts are being made to save the public from being charged exorbitantly and to prevent hoarding and profiteering.

Procurement of Essential Foodgrains.

The above Department further undertakes to arrange securing supplies of essential foodgrains in which the State may be deficient, by arranging to import them from Provinces and States which may have surplus stocks of them, through the utilization of the good offices of the Political and Civil Supplies Departments of the Government of India. Difficulty of short supplies was experienced only in respect of rice mung and arhar. Their supplies were arranged from other provinces and their equitable distribution was effected through the Department.

Prevention of Profiteering & Hoarding.

To restrict the dealers' profits in all goods for which there was no separate control order, a Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance was promulgated. Under it, the maximum prices of several articles were fixed from time to time and sale of articles at prices exceeding those fixed was made punishable. This Ordinance went a great way to check the inflating and hoarding tendencies of the trade.

Sugar and Gur Control.

The arrangements made for supply of sugar and gur in the State worked satisfactorily. The total quotas of sugar allotted to the State during 1943-44 and 1944-45 were 80 and 80 tons respectively and those of gur were 190 and 300 tons for the corresponding periods. As the quotas of sugar were inadequate, the Government of India had to be requested to increase them and it is satisfying to note that the State was able to secure increased quotas of them, which eased the situation.

Exhibition of Prices of Foodgrains.

To eliminate the possibility of dealers charging prices much in excess of the controlled ones, an order was issued requiring all dealers in foodgrains to display prominently on their shops a board showing control price of each kind of grain for information of the public. Non compliance of the order or display of false information of prices was made liable to be dealt with severely.

Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control.

With a view to co-ordinate with the Government of India and to restrict the profits of cloth and yarn merchants, a Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order had been introduced in the State in the year previous to the report, under which no person is allowed to deal in cloth except under and in accordance with a license obtained from the State. This is on the lines of a similar order in force in British India and continued to be in force throughout the period under report with amendments made in accordance with the instructions received from the Textile Commissioner for India from time to time. The Textile Commissioner for the State throughout the period under report was the District Magistrate.

The Order worked satisfactorily and cloth was available in the market to the people at controlled prices.

Standard Cloth.

Arrangements were also made to obtain supplies of standard cloth in order to provide clothing to the poor classes at reasonable rates. The sale of standard cloth helped a good deal in reducing the prices of cotton cloth of all kinds besides meeting the needs of the people.

Petrol and Tyre Rationing.

A Motor Spirit Rationing Order and a Tyre Rationing Order on the lines of the one in force in British India had been

introduced in the State in the previous years, and their rationing is being conducted in accordance with the instructions received from the War Transport Department of the Government of India and the Provincial Rationing Authority for Rajputana who respectively allot quotas of petrol coupons and tubes and tyres. The Rationing Authority for the State, in respect of petrol and tyre rationing is the Motor Transport Controller.

No difficulty was experienced with regard to the quotas of petrol coupons however, quotas of tubes and tyres allotted to the State being very meagre the position in respect of tube and tyre had been very unsatisfactory in 1943-44. The matter was, therefore, taken up with the authorities concerned and the State was able to secure an increased quota of tubes and tyres.

Acknowledgements.

The success of the Administration, as evinced in the forgoing pages, is mainly due to the sympathetic guidance, able direction, great care and personal supervision of the Darbar, to whom my most grateful and profound thanks are due. All the same I cannot miss this opportunity to express my warm appreciation and thanks to the several officers of the State, for their hearty and willing co-operation, in shouldering the heavy and onerous responsibilities at a critical period like the present.

DANTA-BHAVANGADH.

Dated 31st March 1946.

Prithi Singh

Maharaj,

DEWAN, DANTA STATE.

